

Class of 2009 Freshman Democrats
Washington State House of Representatives

March 17, 2009

Senator Lisa Brown
Majority Leader
307 Legislative Building

Senator Rosemary McAuliffe
Chair, Senate Education Committee
403 Legislative Building

RE: Support for House Bill 2261 - Basic Education

Dear Senator Brown and Senator McAuliffe,

We are honored to serve the people of Washington here in Olympia with you!

In recent election experiences around the state, we heard one message loud and clear - Washington's education system and education funding are top priority. **As the nine freshman Democratic legislators partnering with you in the House of Representatives, we are proud to stand together in strong support of House Bill 2261 for Basic Education.**

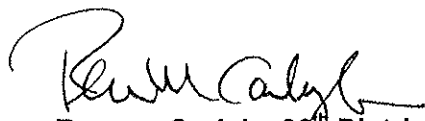
Public schools must give all children the opportunity to learn and to succeed as productive adults in today's globally competitive market. Schools are the key investment in growing a skilled workforce to attract and keep businesses in our state, and are the heart of our local communities and our democracy.

It is well documented that educated people make better health care decisions and are less likely to enter our prison system which saves this state money. We know that these are extremely difficult economic times so we're doing our best to join you in smart decisions for Washington State.

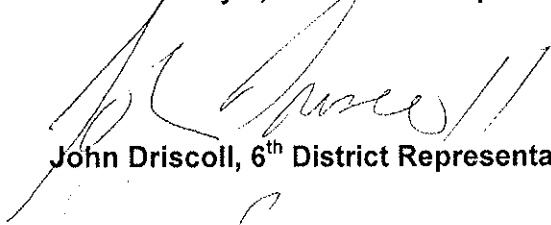
Both *Washington Learns* and the *Basic Education Finance Task Force* engaged in extensive studies and stakeholder participation. From these multiple years of information gathering, and many before them, we now have the opportunity to build a new framework for education. While the bill does provide ongoing studies in specific sections, now is the time to set the education programs and funding plan in HB 2261 in motion.

We are asking for your votes for HB 2261 in Senate hearings, on the Senate floor, and for final passage into law. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and to provide our support to help take Basic Education home as a proud accomplishment for kids and schools during this 2009 session!

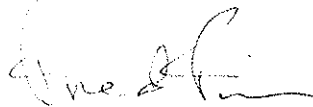
Your consideration is appreciated.



Reuven Carlyle, 36th District Representative



John Driscoll, 6th District Representative



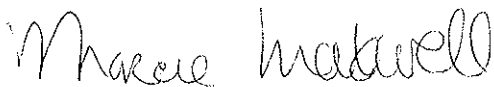
Fred Finn, 35th District Representative



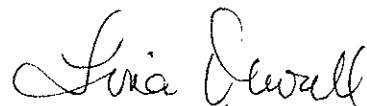
Laura Grant-Herriot, 16th District Representative



Jim Jacks, 49th District Representative



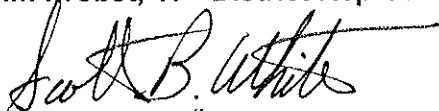
Marcie Maxwell, 41st District Representative



Tina Orwall, 33rd District Representative



Tim Probst, 17th District Representative



Scott White, 46th District Representative

Cc: Democratic members of Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee
Senator Claudia Kauffman, Vice Chair, Early Learning
Senator Eric Oemig, Vice Chair, K-12
Senator Steve Hobbs
Senator Fred Jarrett
Senator Joe McDermott
Senator Rodney Tom
Speaker Frank Chopp
Representative Pat Sullivan
Representative Ross Hunter